

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a plurality of sessions, ~~(66)~~the sessions being between a plurality of terminals ~~(2)~~and a server ~~(20)~~having a plurality of threads~~(74)~~, the method comprising:

grouping the sessions into a plurality of groups~~(72)~~; and

assigning a thread~~(74)~~ to each group~~(72)~~ of sessions so that the assigned thread~~(74)~~ only handles the events of that group of sessions.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which grouping occurs when a session is created~~(70)~~.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 in which grouping occurs when a session becomes active.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which one group~~(72)~~ is provided for each thread~~(74)~~ so that there are equal numbers of groups~~(72)~~ and threads~~(74)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which sessions are assigned statically to particular threads~~(74)~~.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which a session is put into a first group in a first time period before suspension and put into a second group in a second time period following resumption.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 in which the second group is chosen on the basis of the relative levels of activity of the groups.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 6 in which the second group is chosen randomly.
9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which each group~~(72)~~ has a queue~~(80)~~ and each session puts its events into that queue~~(80)~~.
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the sessions are grouped by a thread referred to as an acceptor thread~~(76)~~.
11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 in which the acceptor thread~~(76)~~ calls a function which is answered by notification that a new session has been created and then assigns the new session to a particular session group~~(72)~~.
12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the sessions remain open for an undetermined period of time until closed.
13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the terminals~~(2)~~ comprise mobile terminals.
14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13 in which the terminals~~(2)~~ comprise cellular telephones.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which load balancing means is included in the assignment mechanism of the session.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the sessions~~(66)~~ involve obtaining information or conducting transactions through the Internet.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the sessions are part of the Wireless Session Protocol (WSP).

18. (Currently Amended) A server~~(20)~~ for managing a plurality of sessions with a plurality of terminals~~, (2)~~ the server~~(20)~~ comprising a plurality of threads~~(74)~~, grouping means to group the sessions into a plurality of groups~~, and assigning means to assign a thread to each group of sessions so that the assigned thread(74) only handles the events of that group(72) of sessions.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A server~~(20)~~ according to claim 18 comprising a gateway server serving a plurality of mobile terminals~~(2)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A server ~~(20)~~ according to claim 19 comprising a WAP-HTTP gateway.

21. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a server~~(20)~~ and a plurality of terminals~~, (2)~~ the server~~(20)~~ and the terminals~~(2)~~ conducting a plurality of sessions~~, (66)~~ the server comprising a plurality of threads~~(74)~~, grouping means to group the sessions into a plurality of groups and assigning means to assign at least one thread to each

group of sessions so that the assigned thread-~~(74)~~ only handles the events of that group ~~(72)~~-of sessions.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for managing a plurality of sessions, ~~(66)~~ the sessions being between a plurality of terminals-~~(2)~~ and a server-~~(20)~~ having a plurality of threads-~~(74)~~, comprising:

computer readable program means for grouping the sessions-~~(66)~~ into a plurality of groups-~~(72)~~; and

computer readable program means for assigning a thread to each group-~~(72)~~ of sessions so that the assigned thread ~~(74)~~-only handles the events of that group ~~(72)~~-of sessions.